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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	REPORT N
Italy	
SUBJECT	DATE DIST
Attitude Toward Income Taxes	

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1. The Italian people take a completely disrespectful attitude toward income taxes, and regularly report only what they think they can get away with. Anyone filing a correct income tax form in Italy would be considered a complete fool.

2. It is an accepted fact that just about every business in Italy keeps two sets of books - one for its own use and one to show to the income tax collector. I was told by several persons that the US system could never be accepted in Italy, because the people expect to bargain and haggle over taxes, and even enjoy it. Of course, whenever taxes can be bargained graft enters the picture, so the government tax men would oppose any change also. If the Scelba government hopes to make any change in the income tax system, it will have to be a very gradual one.

3. I was told that Gina Lollobrigida reported a total income of US$3,000 in 1953. When the income tax collectors told her that she must have meant US$30,000 she accepted. Even this, of course, is ridiculous for Italy's top motion picture star.

- End -

taxes

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